

**THE CHURCH'S WITNESS IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND BEYOND (2)**  
**First Gentile Converts and Peter's Escape from Prison**  
**Acts 10–12**

**Memory Verse:** *"To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43 ESV).*

**Background Helps:**

Acts 10 and 11 mark another key transition point in the book of Acts. In fact, these chapters mark a significant turning point in God's plan of salvation for the world. Here the gospel moves out to the Gentiles. Notice that God uses Peter, primarily an apostle to the Jews, as his key instrument in introducing the gospel to the Gentiles. This transition takes place in three stages:

1. The conversion of the Gentile centurion, Cornelius, and his family and friends (Acts 10)
2. Peter's defense of his extension of the gospel to Gentiles (Acts 11:1-18)
3. The establishment of a predominantly Gentile church in Antioch (Acts 11:19-26)

The gift of tongues in Acts 10:44-48 was a confirmatory sign indicating to the Jews that God had now given the same gift of the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles as he had given to the Jews on the day of Pentecost. (See Acts 1:5; 2:4-18; 11:15-18.)

**Lesson Helps:**

- Suggested aim: My students will learn how the gospel was spread to the Gentiles, so that they will be willing to reach across social, ethnic, and cultural barriers with the gospel of Christ.
- Methods: Drama would work well for chapter 10. Assign parts for Peter, Cornelius, the angel, Peter's companions, Cornelius' relatives and friends. Locate Joppa and Caesarea in your room and go to it!
- Suggested application: What are some social, ethnic, or cultural barriers we need to reach across with the gospel? How could we go about it? What will be the first step? When will we take it?

Two alternative aims: 1) My students will learn how God led Peter to bring the gospel to the Gentiles, so that they will follow God's leading in their own lives. Notice the place of God's Word, prayer, circumstances, and the counsel of others in determining the will of God. 2) My students will learn how God answered corporate prayer in releasing Peter from prison (Acts 12:1-19), so that they will pray corporately for God to \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank!).

**Home Assignment:**

 Read Acts 13–14.

 Memorize Romans 10:14-15a.